

REMARKS

In response to the action, Applicants amended claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 and 9, cancelled claims 3, 5, 8 and 10 and provided the 132 Declaration of Mr. Robert Gamble. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the request for continued examination, the amendments, 132 Declaration and the following remarks.

Applicants' attorney thanks the Examiner for the interview and agrees with the summary provided.

Applicants amended Paragraph 28 to correct a typographical error. Applicants respectfully submit that the invention enters no new matter.

Applicants amended independent claims 1, 6 and 9 in a similar manner to clarify the scope of the invention. In particular, the adhesive layers now refer to double-sided "pressure sensitive" adhesive layers. Paragraphs 22 and 24 provide a basis for the adhesive being a pressure sensitive adhesive. Furthermore, the claims now require forming a double laminated subpad with a nip roller--the nip roller of paragraph 28 provides a basis for the limitation. Finally, the claims include the additional step of "controlling nip exit angle γ to 0 degrees \pm 3 degrees over a travel length to limit curling of the double laminated subpad." Paragraph 30, paragraph 35, lines 5 and 6 and paragraph 39, Table 1 provide a basis for the limitation.

Applicants amended dependent claims 2, 4 and 7 for consistency with claims 1 and 6.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims enter no new matter.

The action rejects claim 1 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by Kodaka et al. (US Pat. Pub. No. 2005/0150594). Kodaka et al. disclose adhesive 203 that connects pad 201 to

subpad 205. Applicants have discovered that without careful control of the nip exit angle, double-laminated pressure sensitive adhesive subpads are prone to curling. Kodaka et al. fail to disclose the use of nip rollers or the control of nip exit angle over a travel length to limit curling of a double laminated subpad. Thus, since Kodaka et al. fail to disclose the use of nip rollers or the control of nip exit angle over a travel length to limit curling of a double laminated subpad, Kodaka et al. fail to anticipate amended claim 1.

The action rejects claims 3, 5 and 10 as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kodaka et al. in view of Sawamoto et al. (US Pat. No. 5,318,835) and Lühmann et al. (US Pat. No. 5,897,949). The rejection to claims 3, 5 and 10 becomes moot in view of cancellation of these claims.

The action rejects claim 4 as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kodaka et al. in view of Sawamoto et al. and Lühmann et al. and further in view of Chumbley (US Pat. No. 5,716,687). Kodaka et al. disclose adhesive 203 that connects pad 201 to subpad 205. Applicants have discovered that without careful control of the nip exit angle, double-laminated pressure sensitive adhesive subpads are prone to curling. The combined references fail to disclose the use of nip rollers or the control of nip exit angle over a travel length to limit curling of a double laminated subpad. Furthermore, Chumbley et al. fail to disclose the use of roll goods to apply double-sided adhesive to a subpad capable of curling. In addition, the 132 Declaration of Mr. Robert Gamble indicates that it was not obvious to double laminate subpads with pressure sensitive adhesive at the time of the invention. Thus, since the combined references fail to disclose the use of nip rollers or the control of nip exit angle over a travel length to limit curling of a double laminated subpad, the combined references fail to render amended claim 4 obvious.

The action rejects claims 1, 3, 5 and 10 as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swisher et al. further in view of Sawamoto et al. and Lühmann et al and further in view of Kodaka et al.—the rejection to claims 3, 5 and 10 become moot in view of their cancellation. The combined references fail to disclose the use of nip rollers or the control of nip exit angle over a travel length to limit curling of a double laminated subpad. Furthermore, Chumbley et al. fail to disclose the use of roll goods to apply double-sided adhesive to a subpad capable of curling. Thus, since the combined references fail to disclose the use of nip rollers or the control of nip exit angle over a travel length to limit curling of a double laminated subpad, the combined references fail to render claim 1, as amended, obvious.

The action rejects claim 4 as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swisher et al. further in view of Sawamoto et al. and Lühmann et al and further in view of Kodaka et al. and further in view of Chumbley (US Pat. No. 5,716,687). Applicants have discovered that without careful control of the nip exit angle, double-laminated pressure sensitive adhesive subpads are prone to curling. The combined references fail to disclose the use of nip rollers or the control of nip exit angle over a travel length to limit curling of a double laminated subpad. Furthermore, Chumbley et al. fail to disclose the use of roll goods to apply double-sided adhesive to a subpad capable of curling. In addition, the 132 Declaration of Mr. Robert Gamble indicates that it was not obvious to double laminate subpads with pressure sensitive adhesive at the time of the invention. Thus, since the combined references fail to disclose the use of nip rollers or the control of nip exit angle over a travel length to limit curling of a double laminated subpad, the combined references fail to render amended claim 4 obvious.

The action rejects claims 1, 3, 5 and 10 as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komukai et al. in view of Sawamoto et al. and Lühmann et al. and further in view of Kodaka et al.—the rejection to claims 3, 5 and 10 become moot in view of their cancellation. The combined references fail to disclose the use of nip rollers or the control of nip exit angle over a travel length to limit curling of a double laminated subpad. Thus, since the combined references fail to disclose the use of nip rollers or the control of nip exit angle over a travel length to limit curling of a double laminated subpad, the combined references fail to render claim 1, as amended, obvious.

The action rejects claim 4 as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komukai et al. in view of Sawamoto et al. and Lühmann et al. and further in view of Kodaka et al. and further in view of Chumbley (US Pat. No. 5,716,687). Applicants have discovered that without careful control of the nip exit angle, double-laminated pressure sensitive adhesive subpads are prone to curling. The combined references fail to disclose the use of nip rollers or the control of nip exit angle over a travel length to limit curling of a double laminated subpad. Furthermore, Chumbley et al. fail to disclose the use of roll goods to apply double-sided adhesive to a subpad capable of curling. In addition, the 132 Declaration of Mr. Robert Gamble indicates that it was not obvious to double laminate subpads with pressure sensitive adhesive at the time of the invention. Thus, since the combined references fail to disclose the use of nip rollers or the control of nip exit angle over a travel length to limit curling of a double laminated subpad, the combined references fail to render amended claim 4 obvious.

The action rejects claims 2, 6 and 9 as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komuki, the collective teachings of Sawamoto and Lühmann, and also Kodaka as applied to claim 10. The combined references fail to disclose the use of nip rollers or the

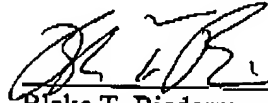
control of nip exit angle over a travel length to limit curling of a double laminated subpad. Furthermore, as stated in the Declaration of Mr. Gamble, at the time of the invention, it was conventional wisdom to add the PSA to polishing pad before adding the PSA to a second side of a subpad. In addition, this change in manufacturing process has eliminated costly steps associated with the manufacturing process for polishing pads containing windows. Thus, since the combined references fail to disclose the use of nip rollers or the control of nip exit angle over a travel length to limit curling of a double laminated subpad, the combined references fail to render claim 1, as amended, obvious.

The action rejects claims 7 and 8 as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komuki, the collective teachings of Sawamoto and Luhmann, Kodaka and also Beaudry as applied to claim 6 above and further in view of Beaudry. Applicants have discovered that without careful control of the nip exit angle, double-laminated pressure sensitive adhesive subpads are prone to curling. The combined references fail to disclose the use of nip rollers or the control of nip exit angle over a travel length to limit curling of a double laminated subpad. Furthermore, Chumbley et al. fail to disclose the use of roll goods to apply double-sided adhesive to a subpad capable of curling. In addition, the 132 Declaration of Mr. Robert Gamble indicates that it was not obvious to double laminate subpads with pressure sensitive adhesive at the time of the invention. Thus, since the combined references fail to disclose the use of nip rollers or the control of nip exit angle over a travel length to limit curling of a double laminated subpad, the combined references fail to render amended claim 4 obvious.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims are in proper form for allowance and respectfully request reconsideration. If a telephone call would expedite prosecution, please call Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

August 24, 2006
Date


Blake T. Biederman
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 34,124

Blake T. Biederman
Patent Attorney
451 Bellevue Road
Newark, DE 19713
Tel. 302-283-2136